A small group of keenly interested, deeply motivated and talented individuals has the opportunity to spend almost a year in Sacramento as California Senate Fellows. With the State Capitol as both workplace and classroom, Senate Fellows serve as fulltime professional legislative staff. Fellows receive a monthly stipend, participate in academic seminars conducted by university faculty and earn graduate credits.





"Even on the long and hard days, I could always take solace in walking outside and looking up at the Sacramento skyline – dominated by the beautiful Capitol dome.

As I thought about where I worked, I knew I had a unique and privileged opportunity."

Edgar Zazueta

"The fellowship opens doors, eyes and ears to your potential and future within the political arena, and it is an indelible inroad into California's Capitol network. As each day ended, I was amazed at the import and extent of my responsibilites as a Fellow."

Carolyn Ginno





California State University, Sacramento

Dear Friend:

At no other time in its history has California been so squarely at the forefront of societal change and public policy demands. The list of challenges and opportunities for meaningful public policy decision-making is unprecedented in this state or any other.

A small group of keenly interested, deeply motivated and talented individuals has the opportunity to work within this environment as California Senate Fellows. With the Capitol as both workplace and classroom, Senate Fellows serve as professional Senate staff members and earn graduate units from California State University, Sacramento (CSUS).

CSUS is proud to jointly sponsor the California Senate Fellows program with the State Senate. We look forward to your participation.

Sincerely,

ALEXANDER GONZALE

President

California State University, Sacramento

"As one of the few
Fellows without any
policy or political
background, I was
nervous about the
learning curve and high
expectations. I learned
as much from the
backgrounds and
experiences of other
Fellows as I did during
the program orientation
and my office
placement."

Mark Smith





"I had the good fortune of working for the longest serving legislator in the Capitol. Although I was the youngest member of his staff, I was given responsibility for one of his dearest and most controversial bills. I couldn't have asked for a more rewarding experience."

Terri Mosqueda

EXPERIÊNCE AND INSIGHT INTO THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

he California Senate Fellows program grew out of a desire to provide people of diverse ages, experience and backgrounds with insight into the legislative process. It offers college graduates a paid, full-time legislative staff position in the State Capitol for 11 months. Fellows also participate in academic seminars conducted by university faculty.

The fellowship experience is intended to broaden the perspective of those planning academic, business or government careers so that they will carry into their chosen fields an understanding of the legislative process and how it relates to their work.

In addition to providing Fellows with exposure to the legislative process, the program provides Senate members and policy committees with research and other professional staff assistance.

Fellows are expected to have a strong interest in public policy and





"We came together as a group of 18 individuals — each of us with our own unique and diverse attributes. Little less than a year later, we left enriched by our shared experience and a common bond of friendship."

Nick Hardeman

politics. Prior legislative experience is not required.

A five-week orientation at the beginning of the program includes information and discussion pertaining to state government, the legislative process and major policy issues. Fellows meet and learn from legislative staff, journalists, lobbyists and various state government officials.

The fellowship program was established in 1973. In 1984, the program affiliated with the Center for California Studies at California State University, Sacramento (CSUS) and is now operated jointly by the Senate and CSUS.

Senate Fellows often continue working in the public policy arena after completing the program. Many hold senior staff positions with the Legislature, and others hold highlevel positions in the executive branch. Some former Fellows now serve as elected officials in local government or as members of the Legislature or the U.S. Congress.

Alumni move back and forth between the public and private sectors during the course of their careers and are found in virtually every profession and vocation.



While participating in mock committee hearings, Fellows assume the roles of Senators, staff, lobbyists and members of the public.



"By combining the office placement with an academic component, the fellowship enabled us to jump into the world of policy-making, while providing the opportunity to contextualize and make sense of the intense but rewarding professional environment."

Anka Lee

THE ACADEMIC COMPONENT

he academic portion of the Senate Fellows program consists of two graduate seminars taught by faculty from the CSUS Government Department.

Weekly seminars in the Capitol provide an academic perspective to complement what each Fellow is learning through his or her office placement. The seminars also afford an opportunity for Fellows to discuss their respective fellowship work experiences.

The academic component increases knowledge and understanding of legislatures and state government, thereby enhancing the Fellows' effectiveness as Senate staff. The program Faculty Advisor assigns written projects and oral presentations.

Fellows register as CSUS graduate students during the Spring 2006 semester. All CSUS fees are paid through the program; there is no cost to individual Fellows.

Senate Fellows receive 12 units of graduate credit through the Government Department. Although

some of the units are applicable toward a graduate degree at CSUS, separate application to a specific degree program is required. Other universities accept the units on a case-by-case basis.

Fellows are eligible to defer their student loans for the duration of the program.



"There are former
Fellows at every level
of influence in the
Capitol, and they're
always available to
offer advice. One of
the best things about
the program is the
affection for Fellows
shown throughout this
building and beyond."
Emily Currin

Fellows participate in weekly academic seminars conducted in the Capitol.



2003-2004 SENATE FELLOWS



Front Row, Left to Right: Eric Guerra; Amanda Morgan; and Luis Portillo.

Back Row, Left to Right: Kate Martin; Shant Apekian; Carolyn Ginno; Mark Smith; Alyson Willey; Roman Porter; Ambi Bohannon; Laura Enderton; Mufaddal Hotelwala; Edgar Zazueta; Terri Mosqueda; Rafael Aguilera; Emily Currin; Nick Hardeman; and Anka Lee.

2003-2004 SENATE FELLOWS

Rafael Aguilera

Sacramento, CA M.P.P.A. (in progress), CSU* Sacramento; B.A. (Economics, Environmental Studies), UC** Santa Cruz

Shant Apekian

Duarte, CA B.A. (Political Science, Sociology), UC Los Angeles

Ambi Grace Bohannon

Inglewood, CA B.A. (Political Science), UC Berkeley

Emily Currin

Pleasanton, CA B.A. (Political Science), UC Los Angeles

Laura Enderton

Santa Clara, CA M.P.A. (in progress) and B.A. (Political Science), San Jose State University

Carolyn Ginno

Redding, CA B.A. (Political Science), CSU Chico

Eric Guerra

Esparto, CA B.S. (Electrical and Electronic Engineering), CSU Sacramento

Nick Hardeman

San Francisco, CA B.A. (Political Science), Saint Mary's College

Mufaddal Hotelwala

Fremont, CA B.A. (American Studies), UC Santa Cruz

Anka Lee

Richmond, CA B.A. (Political Science), UC Berkeley

Katheryn "Kate" Martin

San Diego, CA B.A. (Philosophy, Sociology), University of San Diego

Amanda Morgan

Fresno, CA B.A. (Communication), CSU Fresno

Terri Mosqueda

Long Beach, CA B.A. (Communication, Political Science), Stanford University

Roman Porter

Sacramento, CA B.A. (Communication Studies), CSU Sacramento

Luis Portillo

San Bernardino, CA B.S. (Business Administration), CSU San Bernardino

Mark Smith

Sacramento, CA B.S. (Microbiology), UC Davis

Alyson Willey

Carmichael, CA B.A. (Political Science), UC Berkeley

Edgar Zazueta

Perris, CA B.A. (Political Science), CSU Fullerton

*California State University
**University of California

"The fellowship is so much more than an internship. I was treated like any other staff member in my office. I was given substantive work assignments, participated in policy discussions and even proposed legislation which my Senator introduced."

Luis Portillo

THE WORK OF A SENATE FELLOW

hat does a Fellow do?
Fellows perform the full
range of professional staff functions
associated with busy legislative
offices

During the orientation period,
Fellows participate in an interview
process that results in their
assignment to a specific office for
the remainder of the program.
Although each Fellow's placement
is unique, there are two main
categories – assignments to
Senators' Capitol offices and
placements with Senate policy
committees. Often, there is a mix of
committee and personal office work
responsibilities.

SENATE MEMBER'S OFFICE

Fellows assigned to the Capitol offices of Senate members have a variety of tasks in different policy issue areas. Primarily, they assist their Senators in developing and implementing the member's legislative agenda.

Fellows work on their legislator's bills, write speeches and press releases, meet with constituents

and lobbyists, aid with constituent inquiries and casework, speak to school groups and perform other delegated responsibities.

SENATE POLICY COMMITTEES

Fellows are part of the professional staff who analyze legislation before it is heard in committee. Each committee is assigned responsibility for considering legislation in specific issue areas. Consequently, Fellows assigned to policy committees specialize and develop expertise with respect to the subject matter jurisdiction of the committee.

Additional committee staff responsibilities include assisting the chairperson with committee-related legislation (s)he is moving through the Legislature and special research assignments.



"As an associate consultant with the Public Safety Committee, I researched criminal justice issues, analyzed legislation pending before the committee, drafted a bill proposal and briefed Senators prior to committee hearings."

Kate Martin



"Analyzing bills for the Environmental Quality Committee was a pleasure and an unparalleled learning experience. I developed a better understanding and a stronger intuition with respect to what good legislation looks like and does."

Rafael Aguilera





"I had the opportunity to observe the difference between the theory of lawmaking and the reality of how it is done. Working with a variety of legislators, staff members and stakeholders, I was able to learn the political process — something that cannot be taught from a textbook."

Laura Enderton

STIPEND

ellows receive monthly stipends as well as health and dental benefits. The amount of the monthly stipend for the 2004-2005 fiscal year is \$1882.

WHO CAN APPLY?

he program welcomes applications from anyone who will be at least 20 years of age and a graduate of a four-year college or university by September 1, 2005, and who is authorized to work in the United States for the duration of the program. Applicants need not be California residents; however, preference will be given to candidates who demonstrate knowledge of - and commitment to - the state. There is no preferred major. Recent graduates, individuals with advanced degrees, and those in mid-career are all encouraged to apply.

APPLICATION PROCESS

very applicant must submit a packet consisting of the completed application, college transcript(s), two letters of recommendation and a personal statement. **Applicants are**



"Learning to navigate the turbulent confluence of policy and politics will hone your interpersonal, communication and analytical skills — while helping you discover unknown talents. If you want to see what happens 'behind the scenes' in politics and policy, then this is the program for you."

Roman Porter



"Experiences with innercity ministries and
impoverished
communities brought me
here. But the lasting
personal relationships,
the opportunity to help
with the development of
sound public policy, and
exposure to the numerous
interests at work in our
state – these are the
things that will make it
difficult for me to leave."
Amanda Morgan

encouraged to use the online application form. Complete instructions are included with the application.

SELECTION PROCESS

ighteen Fellows are selected in May. Fellowships are awarded after an initial screening of applications and panel interviews of finalists conducted in Los Angeles and Sacramento. (The selection panel is unable to conduct interviews by telephone, and funds are not available to reimburse applicants for travel expenses.)

Alternates are also selected and may be offered fellowships at any time before the program begins in October 2005.

Academic background and grade point average are important criteria. However, the selection panel carefully considers each applicant's employment history, depth and breadth of community and campus activities, and demonstrated interest in politics and public policy.

Applicants' personal statements are an especially significant part of the application packet.

There are many desirable characteristics associated with

prospective Fellows – including maturity, initiative, flexibility, exceptional communication skills, and well-developed organizational and analytical abilities.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Contact:

California Senate Fellows Center for California Studies

California State University, Sacramento 6000 J Street Sacramento, CA 95819-6081 (916) 278-6906 *www.csus.edu/calst/senate

Daniel Friedlander

Program Director (916) 278-5408 dan.friedlander@sen.ca.gov or

California Senate Fellows Senate Rules Committee

State Capitol, Room 400
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 322-7563
www.sen.ca.gov/ftp/sen/fellows/
home/

Applications are available from your State Senator, campus career center, or upon request from either of the above addresses.

"The program helped me to grow professionally and to develop a sense of confidence that is immeasurable. I will never forget the friends and relationships made during the fellowship."

Eric Guerra



^{*} Includes information about all four fellowship programs administered by the Center for California Studies



"The fellowship provided me with invaluable exposure that will last throughout my career. I had wonderful opportunities to become involved in a wide variety of policy areas."

Shant Apekian

Applications and the text of this brochure can be printed from the Center and Senate Web sites.

The application can be filled out online using the Center's Web site. This eliminates the need for using a typewriter or for printing by hand. Although information can be entered online, the completed application cannot be saved to a computer and must be printed out, signed and submitted along with the rest of the application packet.

CALENDAR OF IMPORTANT DATES

February 23, 2005 Application

deadline

May 5 & 6, 2005 Sacramento interview dates

May 12 & 13, 2005 Los Angeles

interview dates

May 2005 Notification of

selection

October 2005 Senate Fellows

begin orientation

September 2006 Program

concludes

FILING DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 23,2005

ompleted application packets must be postmarked no later than February 23, 2005, to be eligible for consideration. There are no exceptions to the application deadline.

The Center for California Studies is a public education, public service and applied research unit of California State University. Sacramento devoted to promoting understanding of California's history, cultures and public policies. Founded in 1984 and located on the capital campus of the California State University, the Center possesses a unique trust: to bring the resources of the state's largest university system to the service of public discourse, civic education and state government. The Center draws on the services and talents of scholars throughout the 23 campuses of the California State University and on the expertise of professionals and practitioners throughout the state.



"When I graduated from college, I didn't know what I wanted to do with my life. The program was very helpful in figuring things out and offered me real-life experience in the politics of policy."

Alyson Willey